

THE NAUTILUS.

VOL. XXIV.

APRIL, 1911.

No. 12

COLLECTING IN MEXICO.

BY A. A. HINKLEY.

At San Dieguito, State of San Luis Potosi, February 5th, 1909, after an hour's walk to the north of town, 2 o'clock found the writer at the foot of a mountain on which a perpendicular wall of rock faces the west. It is more or less broken by openings or small ravines and shelves. Above and below the bluffs there is more or less timber, with undergrowth and creepers. From a distance it looked like a good place to find *Holospira*, *Macroceramus*, *Helicina*, *Streptostyla*, etc.

The first part of the way up the mountain was over a burned-over tract, where an occasional dead specimen of *Helicina* and *Praticolella* was to be seen, but search under loose rocks failed to disclose living specimens of either. Crossing the burned tract a heavy growth of grass was entered, through which walking was difficult. Some search was made in the grass for shells, but with no success.

When the timber was entered progress was still slower, owing to the creepers, all of which seemed to be supplied with thorns. As the bluffs were neared loose rocks became more numerous, the search here for a while producing nothing. Finally on turning a rock there lay exposed to view a single shell entirely new to me. With a thrill of delight it was picked up and examined. It was an inch and a-half long, not quite as thick as a common lead pencil, truncated at the summit, about 12 whorls remaining. Had all the whorls been present it would have exceeded two inches in length. The truncated summit, cylindric shape and color of the shell somewhat resembles *Stenogyra decollata*. Close hunting over considerable ground

resulted in finding 19 good specimens and a number of dead and broken ones, the latter looking as if some small rodent had broken them to get the animal for dinner. This shell has been named and described by Dr. Pilsbry in the NAUTILUS, Vol. 22, page 138, as *Cælocentrum hinkleyi*. At the base of the bluffs the walking was good to what it had been below, and here are found *Macroceramus mexicanus*, *Holospira hinkleyi*, *Schasicheila hidalgoana*, *Streptostyla gracilis*, *Streptostyla supracostata*, *Helicina vanattæ* and a few dead *Euglandina corneola* and *Euglandina oblonga potosiana*; also a few specimens of a number of other species.

On the 8th of February the same bluffs were again visited. This time an early start in the morning put the writer on the ground before the sun made the climb uncomfortably warm. The entire day was put in around the bluffs and resulted in near fifty good specimens of the fine *Cælocentrum*, but no additional species were added to the first half-day's work.

During the day a nest of small bees was encountered. This nest was made of the same material as our hornets' nests; it was trumpet-shaped, big end up, and stood at an angle from the rock to which it was attached. Being open, the bees could be seen within; they resented the presence of a stranger by buzzing about my face, but made no attempt to sting.

Standing on an elevated point of rock, which was reached after a little climb, a good view of the valley was before me. Through this valley the Mexican Central Railroad passes in nearly a straight line. The valley is cut up into small farms, occupied mostly by people from the United States who are clearing the land and planting sugar-cane, orange trees, bananas, and growing some vegetables, making homes for themselves in this mild southern country.

A COMPARISON OF THE UNIONIDÆ OF THE PEARL AND SABINE RIVERS.

BY L. S. FRIERSON.

A collection of Unios from the Pearl River, at Jackson, Miss., made by Mr. A. A. Hinkley, proves of remarkable interest, when compared with the Unios of the Sabine River, Texas; these two rivers being so far apart, and separated by the immense "bottom" of the Mississippi, which area has, in large part, a different set of inhabitants.